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Memorial Day 2004

Gold Star Mothers support those whose children died in service

BY JENNIFER E. WEST
Nucleus staff writer

In 1965, when U.S. Marine Corps officials came to tell Bonifacio "Boney" and Carmen Lopez that their 19-year-old son, Lance Corporal Robert Charles Lopez, had been killed in an ambush during the Vietnam War, Gold Star Mothers were there to support and offer information.

Five years later, Mrs. Lopez joined the Gold Star Mothers organization that offers support to other mothers who have lost sons and daughters in service to America and whose members do veteran-related volunteer work.

The Lopezes say after the first five years from their loss, they were able to "start being active, come out of our shell," and found the volunteer work

GOLD STAR

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Photo by Todd Berenger

Gold Star Mother Carmen Lopez and her husband "Boney" Lopez lost their son, Lance Corporal Robert Charles Lopez, during the Vietnam War. Five years after their son's death in service to his country, Mrs. Lopez joined the national organization, American Gold Star Mothers, an organization which offers support to mothers and provides volunteer work at veterans hospitals and organizations. Other Memorial Day articles are on Pages 3 and 9.

CLIMATE SURVEY

Most results show improvement, but there are still concerns

BY TERRY WALKER
Nucleus editor

The results of the 2003 Air Force Chief of Staff Climate Survey have been compiled for the 377th Air Base Wing and the Air Force and show an overall increase in satisfaction with the Air Force as a job and way of life.

The survey, completed by 879 wing active-duty and Reserve Airmen and federal and nonappropriated fund civilian employees in October and November, included questions in the core values, general satisfaction, recognition and job categories about such subjects as supervision, teamwork, resources and unit lead-

ership and flexibility.

Col. Hank Andrews, 377th Air Base Wing commander, said the 2003 survey shows increased satisfaction, virtually across the board from the 2002 survey, but even

though most scores went up—there were several areas that did not score 75 percent.

CLIMATE SURVEY

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Utility issues delay new base housing occupancy

Completion of new privatized homes on Kirtland AFB is being delayed due to utility service issues that have developed during construction.

The delay has moved the occupancy date for the initial phase of the new houses back to no earlier than January 2005.

The base privatized all family housing one year ago, and the construction/demolition phase of the project is ongoing and scheduled to take approximately three and a half years. Estimated completion date is late 2006.

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